DEMOCRATIC
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"NAZI PLOT" FRAUD

British Make Camouflage Arrests

The British arrest of seven "leading nazis" in West Germany on January 16th was a put-up job which had nothing to do with combating resurgent nazism, political observers in Berlin stated.

The aims of the British swoop were:

1. To cover up the British-American plot to give back full power and an army to the really dangerous nazis and militarists who hold all key positions in the West German Government and industry.

2. To prepare the way for a blow at the West German Communist Party under the slogan "We are acting against extremists of the right and of the left".

In addition the British authorities were reported to be interested in discovering links existing between the group of nazis arrested and former high-ranking German officers now active in the Middle East, where they are a danger to British imperialist policy.

In West Germany today all effective power is in the hands of men like Krupp and Flick, who control heavy industry, and who armed the nazis.

The West German Government is composed of men like Transport Minister Christoph Seebohm, who recently called for the return to Germany of French Alsace and the Czechoslovakian Sudeten area.

No action has been taken against these people, and dozens of leading nazi generals who are actively engaged rebuilding a West German Wehrmacht receive the full support of the western authorities.

In the British House of Commons on January 21st, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden stated that despite the arrests, the Tory Government would press ahead with the rearmament of West Germany.

The intention of the British, American and West German authorities to use the alleged "nazi plot" as an excuse for staging an all-out attack on the West German Communist Party, was revealed by western attempts to link the arrested nazis with "East German conspiracies".

(More details of the plot against West German progressive forces on page 3.)

French, Germans Join For Peace

The Communists of France and Germany have joined forces in a historic appeal to the people of both countries to defeat the Bonn War Treaty and the plans for a new nazi Wehrmacht.

The appeal, issued at the end of January, and signed by the Central Committees of the French and German Communist Parties, and the Socialist Unity Party in East Germany, called for a Four Power Conference, and a peace treaty with a peace-loving, democratic, re-united Germany.

"For the first time the establishment of lasting peaceful relations between Germany and France has become a real possibility" the appeal stated.

"The people of Germany and France will not serve the imperialists as mercenaries. They will neither fight against the Soviet Union, nor against each other."

(The full text of the appeal is printed on page 5.)

West German Police Open Drive on Youth

In the last two weeks of January more than 50 West German young people who had been active in the peace and progressive movements have been arrested by West German police, Free German Youth headquarters in Berlin announced.

"IT'S ALL RIGHT ANTHONY, THERE ARE PLENTY OF US LEFT!"
(From the "Daily Worker", London)

TWENTY YEARS AFTER

By Wilhelm Pieck

(Twenty years ago today, Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, and the die was cast for a war which killed many millions and devastated half Europe. Speaking on January 18th this year at a memorial demonstration for Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, great working class leaders and fighters against war who were murdered by Hitler's predecessors in January 1919, President Wilhelm Pieck of the German Democratic Republic showed the difference between the position in 1933 and the position today.

Here are some extracts from his speech.)

We are not living in the year 1933, but the year 1953. In the German Democratic Republic the working class, led by the Socialist Unity Party, has started, with great enthusiasm, the job of building Socialism.

The working class in our German Democratic Republic has taken over the factories of the monopolists and is running them itself.

The working peasants have taken back their fields, of which the Junkers robbed them in the past. The formation of production cooperatives in the countryside has cemented, once and for all, the alliance between the working class and the working peasants, and Socialist economy has come to the villages.

For our young people the German Democratic Republic provides every possibility so that they can learn a trade, study scientific Socialism, and grow up imbued with a spirit of proletarian internationalism and friendship for all peoples.

We have thus taken the first step towards the glorious goal, the construction of a Socialist society, that goal which Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, those great Germans, mapped out for the international workers' movement more than one hundred years ago.

We know that great difficulties still remain to be overcome to reach this goal, and that the cost will be high. But the construction of Socialism in Germany will deprive German imperialism, forever, of its material and political basis. Socialist Germany can never be the starting point for imperialist wars.

It is thus no coincidence that the agents and terrorists organised and financed by the German and American monopolists, should choose this moment to try to disrupt our peaceful work of construction.

They must be shown quite plainly that the working class of the German Democratic Republic will never again allow power be taken from them.

The enemies of Socialism and the enemies of peace should note this well:

We shall beat off with all our strength every attack on our democratic state; every attack on our Socialist Unity Party; every attack on the alliance between the workers and the working peasants. We shall throw back these attacks, and we shall destroy the attackers.

Today, West Berlin has become a main centre for the criminal American organisations of agents, and West Berlin is being turned into a bridgehead for a third world war.

I can only repeat the warning which I gave the people of West Berlin in my New Year message. If the Bonn War Treaties are ratified, and if West Berlin is included in this war block of the western powers, the German Democratic Republic and the Democratic Sector of Berlin will be faced with the urgent necessity of taking security measures against enemy attacks and provocations, and against the entry of criminal elements. We must take such steps for the protection of our peaceable and hard-working population.

The provocateurs in West Berlin, the Reuters and the others, should not delude themselves that we shall ever allow them to take away our Stalin Allee and our nationally owned industry, to return them to the stock-holders of AEG, of Siemens, and of their American business partners.

We owe this to our dead heroes. Calm and determined, like Karl Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg, and Ernst Thaelmann, ready for every sacrifice like the thousands of workers killed by the Fascists, we shall fight, and we shall win, in the struggle for Socialism in the German Democratic Republic, in the struggle for the unity of our nation, in the fight for the maintenance of peace.

"WHO WILL DEFEND US FROM NAZI GENERALS?"

— Church Leaders Query

Well known church leaders in West Germany have made a last minute appeal to the Bonn Parliament not to ratify the Bonn Treaty, which would entail the creation of a new West German Wehrmacht.

"You say that you want to protect us against Soviet aggression" states the appeal. "How will you protect us, however, against the aggressive plans of the leading generals and industrialists, how will you protect us from the 'liberation' schemes of the crusading politicians?

"You claim that the ratification of the treaties will bring us nearer to the reunification of Germany. We know that this reunification can only be the result of negotiations or of war.

"Peace cannot be brought about and made secure if we arm ourselves, materially and ideologically, for war."

The appeal was signed by Pastor Martin Niemoeller; former West German Minister of the Interior Dr Gustav Heinemann; D. Wilm, President of the Rhineland Evangelical Church; and many other clergymen and prominent laymen.

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Building Democratic Germany (1)

FROM JUNKER ESTATES TO COOPERATIVE FARMS

Agricultural production in the German Democratic Republic is growing yearly, and in the coming year the people expect the farmers to provide them with 16 percent more meat and 11 percent more sugar than in 1952.

This article, the first of a series on various aspects of life and work in East Germany, gives a sketch of the developments in the countryside since 1945.

In spring 1953 a large proportion of the peasants in the German Democratic Republic will, for the first time, plow and sow their fields cooperatively. Instead of each farmer plowing his handkerchief-size field for himself, tractors from the nearby tractor station will plow furrows many hundreds of yards long, across the old boundary lines.

What is the background to this great step forward?

East Germany was traditionally the land of the great Junker estates, the breeding ground of Prussian militarism. In the old imperial German army more than 50 percent of the generals were men with big estates in the east of Germany, estates on which the agricultural workers were treated almost as slaves.

In 1945, immediately after the end of the war, the newly constituted provincial governments in East Germany, acting under the terms of the Potsdam Agreement which called for the eradication of the root causes of nazism and militarism, decreed a thorough land reform. All estates of over 100 hectares (about 250 acres) were confiscated without compensation, together with all stocks. A total of some 5,000,000 acres of land was involved, and this land was divided up amongst the former agricultural workers on the great estates, poor peasants whose holdings did not bring in enough to keep them alive, and re-settlers from areas east of the Oder-Neisse frontier.

Small holdings were allotted to a total of 560,000 families, nearly 100,000 of them being re-settlers.

The dividing up of the land was by no means the end of the land reform. It was necessary to provide dwellings and farm buildings for the new farmers, and this was done largely by tearing down the old country houses and using the material to build tens of thousands of simple small farm houses. Castles and mansions of historic and architectural value were naturally spared in the course of this campaign, and today they are mostly in use as holiday homes, schools, and children's homes.

The government granted the new farmers very generous credits so that they could get their new holdings running—from 1948 to 1950 credits and other agricultural aid cost 2,410 million marks—and in 1950 the government decreed that all peasant indebtedness for credits should be halved.

The work of building up agricultural life was by no means easy. In many parts of the country the live-stock had been reduced to practically nil as the result of the war, and in the general chaos of the first post-war years the simplest agricultural machinery, such as plows, was not available.

Even when the critical period had been overcome, there was still a great shortage of machinery such as tractors and threshing machines, and the new farmers were in danger of coming under the complete control of the richer farmers who possessed such machines and would only hire them out at exorbitant rates.

To overcome this danger, and to help in the mechanisation of agriculture, the "Machine hire stations" or tractor stations were founded in all parts of the country. The Soviet Union gave valuable help in forming the tractor stations by providing the first 1000 tractors. These tractor stations not only hired out tractors and machines to the new farmers at very reasonable rates (small holders got cheaper rates than big farmers), but the mechanics and tractor drivers attached to the stations brought a breath of new life into the villages, established libraries, brought in film shows, helped to popularise new methods of agriculture, and so on.

The size of tractor stations and their importance grew mightily from year to year. In 1950 they were able to provide 5800 tractors, in 1951 over 12,000 tractors, and in 1952 over 16,000 tractors.

The small farmers also received valuable help from the nationally-owned estates. These were mainly specialised estates which had been taken over at the time of the land reform but which had not been suitable for partioning—stud farms, market gardens, seed stations, large fruit orchards, and so on. The nationally-owned estates comprise about four percent of the agricultural area, and provide over 10 percent of the agricultural produce of the Republic today.

As a result of the land reform, over 90 percent of the farms in East Germany in 1951 were under 50 acres in size. The farmers, seeing how economically and efficiently the tractor stations worked, began to get together in various dictricts to do some of their other work on a cooperative basis. The cooperation began very often with a joint campaign against insect pests, and then extended to a threshing group, joint hiring of stud animals, and so on.

In the course of 1952 this timid beginning in the village took a more determined form, and farmers who had made trips to neighbouring countries and the Soviet Union came back to their villages with enthusiastic accounts of how cooperative farming methods could lead to bigger crops and less backbreaking toil.

By the end of 1952, farmers in more than 1500 villages had decided to give cooperative farming a try, and had come together in "production cooperatives." There were many local variations in the form of these cooperatives, but in the main they provided for the collective cropping of the combined fields of all members, though members could retain a small holding and farm animals for their own use.

The development did not pass without clashes with rich farmers and "village pashas" in various places, reactionary elements who feared that the new cooperatives would destroy once and for all their influence in the village, but the Government took measures to prevent the terrorisation and intimidation of progressive farmers who wanted to use the new methods.

PROFILES

NINE ANTI-FASCISTS IN PERIL

What is the background of the nine Communist Members of Parliament in West Germany, who are in urgent danger of arrest and persecution, as we report on another page?

One thing unites all nine of them: long years of bitter and consistent struggle against German militarism and fascism in every form. If the newly resurgent militarists in West Germany should succeed in imprisoning them, it will be no new experience. Almost all of them spent many years in prison or concentration camp under Hitler.

Max Reimann, Miner and Fighter

The Chairman of the Communist Party of Germany, Max Reimann, 54 years old, started life as a dockyard worker, moving later to the Ruhr, where he worked for many years as a face-worker in the mines.

For nearly forty years he has played an active part in trade union life, and he joined the Communist Party on the very day of its formation at the end of World War One.

The miners of the Ruhr got to know and trust him during the fierce industrial struggles of Weimar Germany, and when Hitler came to power in 1933, Max Reimann was Party Secretary in Essen.

For six nerve racking years Reimann was able to outwit the Gestapo, and organise the anti-nazi struggle in Germany, but finally he too was caught, and spent the war years in the nazi concentration camp of Sachsenhausen.

Despite the years of deprivation and torture, which still mark his gaunt face, Max Reimann threw himself into the fight to build a new Germany. With only one interruption — three months in a British Zone military prison in 1949 — he has been at work, fighting the same people he has been fighting all his life: the bosses, the militarists, the warmongers.

Otto Niebergall, Metal Worker

Into his 49 years Niebergall has crammed 35 years of active work in the trade unions, youth movement, and the Communist Party.

In the years after World War One he helped to form the metal workers' union in Saarbruecken, where he worked, and from 1926 to 1935 he served the workers as member of the Saarbruecken City Council.

When Hitler took over the Saar Territory in 1935, Otto Niebergall traveled to the Ruhr, where the police did not know him, and organised underground trade union work.

He was the only one of the threatened Communist deputies who did not see the inside of a nazi prison, for in 1940 he was able to go to France, and remained there until the end of the war, fighting in the ranks of the French resistance.

Back in Germany again at the end of the war, he took up the work where he had been forced to leave off.

Hugo Paul, Mechanic

In 1932 the young mechanic Hugo Paul was elected to the Reichstag as a representative of the Ruhr workers. One year later, after Hitler came to power, he was arrested and sentenced to six years hard labour, followed by a long term in concentration camp.

Released, he immediately took up his illegal anti-Fascist work again, was re-arrested and sent back to prison, and was only released by the defeat of Fascism.

After the war he became first Minister for Reconstruction in North-Rhine Westphalia, but was soon dismissed because of his undeviating struggle for the unity of Germany.

These three biographies are typical of the lives of all nine of the threatened deputies. Here, in a few sentences, are the potted biographies of the other six:

Heinz Renner

Member of the anti-Fascist movement in the Saar Territory from 1933 to 1935. Emigrant in France, interned in 1939, handed over to the nazis in 1943, concentration camp until the end of the war.

Frau Gertrud Strohbach

Member of the Socialist movement all her life. Arrested by the Gestapo and sentenced to long term of imprisonment in 1933, immediately after Hitler came to power.

Friedrich Rische

Repeatedly arrested during the Hitler period. Served sentence of hard labour for "treason" to nazi regime.

Will Agatz

Miner, who took active part in the resistance campaign to the French occupation of the Ruhr in 1923. Spent the nazi years in prison and nazi concentration camps.

Walter Fisch

Forty two year old metal worker. Spent the first two years of the nazi era in prison, then managed to escape from Germany, four years in Swiss internment camp.

Oskar Mueller

Three years hard labour in 1933, then concentration camp prisoner until end of war in Sachsenhausen and Dachau.

Luftwaffe Pilots to Aid U.S.

The American Air Force wants to learn from the experiences of former nazi Luftwaffe officers, according to a letter being sent to Hitlerite pilots. One such letter, dated January 8th 1953 stated:

U.S. Air Force Historical Research Division
Hotel Europaeischer Hof
Bad Solden, Taunus.

Dear Sir,

This is to invite you to attend an interview at the address given above. In our work we are very interested in the cooperation of all those who, during the last fifteen years, served outside Germany.

You are invited to a stay of several days, involving no expense to yourself. It is important that you should report at the address given above on January 28th at 8.00 a. m.

Lieutenant Colonel R. S. Harriman
U.S. Air Force.

West German Spy Network Under Construction

The West German authorities are hard at work rebuilding the spy network throughout the world which was broken up at the end of world war two.

Open sign of the rebuilding of the network is the sum of three million marks, earmarked in the budget of the West German Foreign Office for "secret expenses". In addition one million marks are put aside for "helping German citizens in foreign countries" while "cultural and humanitarian relations with abroad" receive a subsidy of 3.5 million marks.

"GERMANS AND FRENCHMEN WILL NOT FIGHT AGAINST EACH OTHER"

The people of France and Germany must fight side by side for their independence and against the danger of a new war, stated a joint appeal issued by the Central Committees of the Communist Party of France, the Communist Party of Germany (in West Germany), and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (in East Germany).

The appeal stated:

"The people of Germany and France are threatened by the danger of a new war. The treaties of Bonn and Paris aim at the creation of an aggressive European Army under the command of the American imperialists.

"The Bonn and Paris Treaties mean the rebirth of nazism and militarism and the re-establishment of the Wehrmacht in West Germany. On the basis of the Bonn and Paris Treaties the USA wants to convert West Germany into the deployment ground for a new war against the USSR and against the French people. This leads inevitably to an arms race and increasing poverty for the working people.

World Domination Plans

"The American imperialists want to misuse our peoples in order to carry out their plans for world domination, and like Hitler they preach a crusade against Communism. They have found in the French and German imperialists accomplices who betray the national interests of our two peoples, who abandon national independence, and who expose the people to the danger of a new mass murder.

"They have created the Bonn and Paris Treaties in order to draw West Germany into the framework of the aggressive Atlantic Pact, which is directed against the Soviet Union.

"These treaties help to re-establish German militarism and imperialism, which hope, with the help of the USA, to gain predominance in Europe, and which will inevitably take up again the old plans of conquest as soon as they think they are strong enough.

Campaign of Persecution

"These treaties thus imply the danger of a new war between Germany and France.

"In order to force through their policy of war the reactionary imperialist forces, under the command of US imperialism, are trying to break down national resistance and to gag the people's movement for peace in our two countries.

"That is the reason for the campaign of persecution directed against the Communist Party of France and leading comrades like Jaques Duclos, and against the Communist Party of Germany and its Chairman Max Reimann.

"The people of both countries want peace and lasting mutual understanding. Peace between France and Germany, peace in Europe, will be enforced by the mutual struggle of the peoples against the warmongers.

"The people of both countries greet the historic declaration made by the President of the German Democratic Republic, Comrade Wilhelm Pieck: 'The German Democratic Republic for its part will never tolerate that war should ever again be waged against the French people by Germans.'

"The people of Germany and France will not serve the imperialists as mercenaries. They will neither fight against the Soviet Union, nor against each other.

"The people of France and Germany approve and support the efforts made by the Soviet Union for a peaceful solution of the German question. These efforts are the result of the consistent peace policy of the USSR, underlined once again a short while ago by Comrade Stalin in his interview.

"The common aims for which the working people of both countries are fighting, which are at the same time in the interest of all peace-loving peoples, are:

A peace treaty with Germany.

A peace-loving, democratic, re-united Germany, without nazism and militarism.

The guarantee that Germany should not participate in a military alliance directed against another country.

"The joint fight of our people for peace will restore unity to Germany, and restore security and independence to France. The existence of a peace-loving, democratic re-united Germany is the best guarantee of security for France and the other countries of Europe.

Bonn Treaty Must Go

"This fight will help the peaceful development of Europe on the basis of respect for the freedom and equality of all nations.

"The establishment of lasting peaceful relations between Germany and France has become a real possibility for both peoples for the first time. In order to establish such relations it is necessary to defeat the Bonn Treaty and all other preparations for a war of aggression.

"Our peoples have already gained a great victory by preventing until now the ratification of the Bonn and Paris Treaties. By strengthening their fight they can finally defeat the treaties. For the peaceful solution of the German problem the peoples of both countries demand the calling of a Four Power Conference.

"At the present hour this is the outstanding duty of the workers and the entire population of both countries.

"The three signatory parties appeal for the fulfillment of this historic task.

"Long live the fighting solidarity of the people of France and Germany!

"Long live peace!"

CENTRAL BOARD OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF FRANCE.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY.

Wage Boost for East German Teachers

All teachers in the German Democratic Republic got big wage increases as a New Year present from the Government. The wage increases were not granted on a percentual basis, but on a sliding scale which encourages teachers to continue their own education in order to reach a higher wage group.

Young Jobless in West Germany

Of the 800,000 young people who have finished their schooling in West Germany in the past three years, only 100,000 have been able to find apprenticeships or "jobs with a future" according to official statistics.

The others are either in "blind-alley" jobs, or have gone to swell the ranks of the unemployed.

LEADING SPY ARRESTED

The Security Service of the German Democratic Republic has exposed and arrested a leading member of the Christian Democratic Union, Foreign Minister Georg Dertinger, on charges of espionage for an imperialist power, it was announced in Berlin on January 16th.

The official announcement stated: "The arrest was the result of Dertinger's hostile activity directed against the German Democratic Republic, carried out on the instructions of imperialist espionage agencies."

The Political Executive Committee of the Christian Democratic Union, in a unanimous resolution, called on the members of the party to "increase vigilance in the ranks of the party without distinction of person or rank. The members of our party will not tolerate the presence of traitors and provocateurs, spies and agents."

The resolution condemned in the strongest words "the misdeeds of this man, who pretended to be a progressive politician, but who had, in fact, got into touch with hostile espionage agencies which are trying to destroy our new democratic society on the orders of American imperialism."

The East German Government on January 22nd named Secretary of State Anton Ackermann to act as Foreign Minister for the time being. Decisions of basic importance will be referred to Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl.

British and American newspapers spent colums of print giving long-winded "explanations" of the arrest of Georg Dertinger. They failed to print the following report of the British Reuter news agency from Berlin which made all their guesses superfluous:

"Berlin, Jan 16 (Reuter) — German sources in West Berlin declared that for some time Dertinger had been ... supplying agents of the British Intelligence Service with internal information about East Germany and Soviet policy.

His information had been forwarded by a West Berlin lawyer named Eberhard Plewe."

W. German Anti-Semitism Growing

The Jewish community in East Berlin has established a new provisional committee to replace the the American agents who fled to West Berlin recently.

The new community committee, headed by Georg Heilbrunn, Bernhard Jacobus and Israel Rothmann, issued an appeal to all Jewish citizens of the Democratic Sector to cooperate with the democratic authorities.

The appeal pointed out that in East Germany and East Berlin all forms of anti-Semitism were strictly prohibited under the Constitution and under the Law for the Defence of Peace, while in West Berlin and West Germany anti-Semitism was rampant and the authorities were taking no action against it.

Dr Martin Reisenburger, Jewish preacher in Berlin, has appealed to Jews throughout Germany to resist the dangerous anti-Semitism which is growing up in West Berlin and West Germany.

"Do not forget that in 1952 it was possible for a swastika to be smeared on the walls of a house in Wedding (French Sector), together with the words 'Germany Awake', words which we still remember so well.

"Placards have been plastered on shops in West Berlin with the wording 'Jewish Shop, Germany Awake!' Do you not all remember how things started like that in 1933?"

Dr Reisenburger then gave other examples of the way in which nazi methods were reviving, and continued:

"In the past year the Government of the German Democratic Republic has contributed 290,000 marks towards the rebuilding of the Jewish synagogue in Erfurt."

WEST TRIES TO GAG COMMUNISTS

Parliamentary Defeat for Adenauer

The West German Government's plan to smash the Communist Party by jailing its main leaders on various pretexts suffered a great set-back on January 22nd, when the West German Parliament, by a vote of 145 to 144, rejected a motion depriving nine Communist deputies of their parliamentary immunity.

If the Adenauer Government should succeed at a future date in removing the immunity granted to all members of Parliament, then the leading Communist deputies will find themselves exposed to trial, before extremely reactionary judges, on framed-up political charges under which they could be removed from the political scene by the imposition of sentences of many years of imprisonment.

Max Reimann, Chairman of the Communist Party, is accused, for instance of "insulting the Federal Government and endangering the safety of the state". His "crime" is that he wrote: "People who imitate Hitler and Goering today, will end in the same way as they did." This is regarded by the government attorneys as an insult to the Federal Government.

Another charge against Max Reimann is that in a proclamation against the Bonn War Treaty he stated: "The great danger which threatens ... can only be avoided by the overthrow of the Adenauer Government."

The charges against the other eight Communist deputies are on the same level.

(Biographical notes on the deputies on page 4.)

"AM I UN-AMERICAN?"

Letter from an American Mother in East Germany

Dear Jay,

Two questions in your last letter prompt me to answer you more seriously perhaps than you expect, or maybe even want. "Are you", you ask, "sold on Soviet Propaganda?", and again, "Are you forgetting you are an American?"

NO, of course, to both your questions. How could I be "sold on Soviet Propaganda", anyway? Because I actually live here, right behind the "Iron Curtain". I need no mysterious injection of Soviet Propaganda to tell me how to judge what I can see for myself, or what I personally live through. I really have only to look around me.

Not that I see everything here as perfect, either. The State stores, for instance, — the merchandise I can buy is still not as varied or luxurious as you are accustomed to see, (but which most can rarely afford to buy), in the better U. S. stores. This difference used to be really glaring. But there is a very real meaning in "still not as varied etc.", because, living here, one expects and becomes used to continuous and almost uninterrupted improvement.

I say "almost", because there actually have been some slight upsets in the food supply lately, kind of teething-pains, I guess, in the new drive towards Socialism. I must say, however, that even this slight snag has been blown up and distorted in the Western papers to a point of pure ludicrousness.

But I want to tell you, even if only briefly, some of the advantages or compensations which I, along with millions of others, find in living here, and which you say makes us "sold on Soviet Propaganda". I like, for example, the way my children are being educated. And not only through the school they attend, where, along with Arithmetic, History, Geography etc., they learn the meaning of true democracy: meaning that each child is treated, and treats others, equally, regardless of heritage, race, religion, or economic background. This, I remember from my own childhood, is by no means always true of American schools.

I like too, for my children, the general atmosphere around them. Since there are no comic strips, toys, books or movies available which are based on either cheap sex, brutalities, or the glorification of wars, they are completely uninfluenced by such things. I have seen children here play at everything, even Indians, but never at War.

For myself, personally, and apart from my children, I must admit I like the atmosphere too. I like especially what happens to people when some of their basic economic and social fears are removed: the new pride and self-respect among workers in being workers, and the new humor, relaxation and understanding which is born through being secure in one's job, and knowing that living-standards for everybody are always and inevitably improving. Economic security here, based naturally on one's own efforts, is never the result of either cheating or being cheated. The effect of this alone, on human-beings, must, of course, be obvious to you.

I like also, by the way, the fact that, through full social insurance, the only bill for medical treatment I've ever seen here was a veterinary's bill two years ago. Our dog was injected against distemper.

Am I forgetting I am an American? Again, how could I? And not only because I look, am, and feel very American. Living anywhere outside the U.S. these days, but especially here in Germany, one is more than usually aware of being American. It's a kind of two-sided consciousness too: I'm conscious of our great traditions of freedom and democracy which I know exist not only in our Constitution, but in the great bulk of the American people themselves. At the same time one cannot help but be aware of the contradictions of these same principles in what is being done here in Germany in the name of America. So I am forced to be ashamed of that part of America which is giving guns back to Nazis in West Germany, and which pays agents to come over to East Germany to interrupt the peaceful construction work here.

The great bulk of the German people, both East and West, are very strongly resistant to this policy of the U. S., but unfortunately it is, to them, a reflection of the whole America. So, far from forgetting I am an American, I feel very deeply the need to be American, and to try, even in a small way, to show and speak of that America and those Americans which I know still exist, and who stand truly for peace and for freedom.

I hope you are among them.

Sincerely,
Ruth Post

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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"Women Can't Drive Trams"

The West Berlin authorities have split the city's tramway system, hitherto united, using as an excuse the statement "Women cannot be trusted to drive trams".

Despite the partitioning of the city the tramway system has hitherto run across the artificial frontiers, pausing only at the border to take on another conductor, who sold tickets in East or West currency as the case might be.

In East Berlin, where women are guaranteed full equal rights, and equal pay, women have been trained as tram-drivers, and have proved very good at the job.

On January 15th one of these women drivers was at the controls of a tram of line 74, which crosses the Potsdamer Platz from the Democratic Sector to the British Sector. As soon as the tram reached the British Sector it was halted by a traffic inspector, and forbidden to proceed any farther. He quoted as justification a nazi law banning women to act as tram drivers.

As a result of the ban, which the western authorities refused to remove, all tram traffic between East and West came to a halt, and passengers must now get out at the sector border, walk across on foot, and get into a new tram on the other side.

Observers in East Berlin saw two reasons for this new step to split the city. First was the desire of the West Berlin administration to cause all difficulty possible. Second was the fear that women at the controls of the tramcars would be a daily reminder to the women of West Berlin of their unfavourable position. The principle of equal pay for equal work is unknown in West Berlin, and average wages for women are between 25 % and 40 % lower than those paid to men doing similar work.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

An experience which I had just two years ago has been much in my thoughts in recent days.

To sketch in the background quickly: in June 1950, I ceased working as Chief Correspondent for Reuters news agency in West Berlin, and came to East Berlin to work for the peace movement.

In January 1951, I was lying in an East Berlin hospital, under treatment for stomach ulcers, when a friend brought me a copy of the West Berlin newspaper "Telegraf".

"This will cheer you up" he said.

Raving Mad

It certainly did, since the paper carried a long and detailed report of how I had gone raving mad and had been taken to a mental home and placed under close guard.

All this farrago of nonsense was based on the supposed statement of a "male nurse who has fled to West Berlin from Buch Mental Hospital where John Peet is being treated."

At this point the story collapsed, for any serious investigation would have shown that "Buch Mental Home" had ceased to be a mental home and had been turned into an ordinary hospital many years ago.

But little details like this did not disturb the "journalists" who invented the story, and even though I broadcast, pretty sanely I believe, from Berlin Radio on the evening of the day on which this invention appeared, no correction was ever printed, and in fact the story, with elaborations, was reprinted for weeks in West German newspapers, and probably elsewhere.

Old History?

Why am I digging up this old history? Because once again anonymous "refugees from East Germany" are being quoted at length in the western press, for statements which are just as wild, and much more dangerous, than that cited above.

Even such one-time respectable papers as the "Manchester Guardian" have joined in the game, with daily bulletins, based on nothing except the fevered imagination of West Berlin "journalists", about alleged "mass arrests" and so on.

The "Manchester Guardian" in fact reached a new low on January 19th with a completely fictitious and slanderous report that a pogrom "is now under way" in East Germany.

Factual denial of the downright lies printed about East Germany in the western press in the past two or three weeks would take two or three issues of GERMAN REPORT at least, and it would be a thankless task since the falsehoods are being fabricated at a break-neck speed.

Situation Vacant

"Director for the Restitution Office in Karlsruhe, and deputy director for the Restitution Office in Freiburg . . . Candidates need not prove that they were not associated with National Socialism."

From the Official Gazette, Province of Baden-Wuertemberg, West Germany.

(Restitution Offices deal with compensation and pension claims from concentration camp inmates and other victims of Hitler Fascism.)

What has actually happened in East Germany has been recorded in this and previous numbers of GERMAN REPORT.

When your morning newspaper next reports "X arrested, Y purged, Z disappears" just remember the little cautionary tale about me and the mental home.

Incidentally, I went to a first night at an East Berlin theatre two evenings ago. You could have filled two rows with the prominent people there who, if you believed the West Berlin press, were all rotting in prison cells.

And here is a historical footnote. In 1920 Walter Lippmann, the American columnist, who was then moderately progressive, analysed the reports about Soviet Russia appearing in the "New York Times" He discovered, among other things, that in the course of only three years the "New York Times" had reported 57 separate times that Lenin had died, been murdered, been deposed or had fled.

The "New York Times", and most of the rest of the western press, appear intent on beating this record.

Sabotage

To any reader who may doubt the reports in these pages about American financed espionage and sabotage, we can only recommend a reading of the eminently respectable "Wall Street Journal" for December 13th 1952. The paper urged that the American administration should "encourage go-slow movements in Red... factories and mines... and ship in extra ration cards and imitation money for spreading further confusion in Iron Curtain countries. The aim would not be to start revolutions now. It would mainly be to throw some sand into the gears of industry and to delay Red political organisation of the satellite countries."

But when one of these "sand-throwers" is arrested in East Germany or elsewhere in the countries of Socialism, the western propaganda machine sets up a heart-rending cry of "persecution".

Heil B.B.C.

On January 16th the BBC in London broadcast a programme called "Portrait of Berlin". The official programme magazine, "Radio Times" published a map to illustrate the broadcast.

On this map one district in the Democratic Sector was marked with the name "Horst-Wessel-Stadt". This was the name given by the nazis to the district, in memory of their pimp-hero, and the name was naturally changed back to the old name of Friedrichshain immediately after the nazis had been swept away, nearly eight years ago.

Just in case the gentlemen from the BBC have not noticed, we should like to remind them that Hitler is no longer Chancellor of Germany, and that whatever may be happening in the field of neo-nazism in West Germany and West Berlin, these things have been abolished once and for all in the German Democratic Republic.

"SCIENTISTS WARNED IN EAST GERMANY ACADEMY TO BE DISSOLVED"

Headline in the "Times" London, January 24th 1953, reporting speech by East German Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht to the German Academy of Sciences.

Extract from actual text of Walter Uibricht's speech:

"The German Academy of Sciences should go forward boldly to tackle the new tasks confronting it in the period of the creation of the basis of Socialism."

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